

**THE EINARI VIDGRÉN FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTED EUR 177,000 TO FOREST PROFESSIONALS  
- The Foundation also rewarded international forestry expertise**

**The Einari Vidgrén Foundation, founded in April 2005, distributed awards to forestry professionals of merit for the third time. The awards, totalling EUR 177,000 and decided by the Board of Directors, were distributed on Wednesday 7 May 2008 in Vieremä.**

**When making the decision on who should receive an award, the Board of Directors of the Einari Vidgrén Foundation evaluated each nominee's credentials in the field of mechanised harvesting and related research, product development, training and communications. The Board received a good number of well-grounded suggestions for nominees for the awards. The number of those receiving an award was 58, and, in addition to that, 42 grants were distributed to forestry students.**

**The EUR 72,000 Einarin Palkinto (The Einari Award) for forest machine entrepreneurs**

The Einari Award, worth EUR 72,000, was distributed among four forest machine entrepreneurs. The awards were granted to the following persons because of their work as forest machine entrepreneurs:

**Keijo Mikkonen** from Pihlputaa, the Chair of the Board of Directors and founder of Metsäkolmio Oy, has expanded his activities from a forest machine entrepreneur to a comprehensive network of companies comprising different sectors of the forestry business. He has open-mindedly developed his skills in forestry, and he has applied new working methods and incorporated the latest innovations in the operations of his companies. Mikkonen has also actively participated in the operations of The Trade Association of Finnish Forestry and Earth Moving Contractors, and he has also been vested with many other positions of trust in the field of forestry and entrepreneurship.

**Paavo Hiltunen** from Leppävirta, the Managing Director of Kohmansalon Metsäkuljetus Oy, has sensibly developed his business and motivated his staff in providing high-quality work. Hiltunen has, in cooperation with machine producers, actively participated in product development and also developed harvesting tools himself. Hiltunen is also active in various projects that aim at the development of entrepreneurship, and since 1996 he has been involved in the development and testing of optimising. Hiltunen is an active member of The Trade Association of Finnish Forestry and Earth Moving Contractors and has municipal positions of trust.

The company Veljekset Juntunen Ay, owned by **Timo Juntunen** from Suomussalmi, has wide-scale operations in the forestry sector, and the company's operations are of exceptionally high quality. In the follow-up of harvesting quality conducted by the Kajaani region harvesting associations, the company has always achieved a top position. In 2006 and 2007, the company was voted the best-quality harvesting company in the region.

Martti Sirviö Oy, owned by the Managing Director **Martti Sirviö** from Sotkamo, has expanded and developed its activities in a sensible manner using modern harvesting equipment. The company has a good reputation, and it is renowned for being a provider of reliable and high-quality work. The company and the good work it provided have also been praised by forest owners.

**International expertise also received attention when five awards worth EUR 6,000 were distributed**

The Headmaster of the Moscow State Forest University, **Viktor Sanaev**, was rewarded for his work in the development of mechanised harvesting in Russia. Sanaev has actively developed the training and implementation of modern harvesting based on the cut-to-length method. Up-

to-date training promotes the modernisation of harvesting and the development of the entire Russian forestry sector. Mr Sanaev understands both the need for the modernisation of harvesting and the necessity of modern training, and he actively works to solve the problem. The modern training auditorium, opened in the most remarkable forestry university in Russia, the Moscow State Forest University, in September 2007, serves as a concrete example of the development of training. Headmaster Sanaev is involved in the committee for the development of the forest industry of the Russian Federation, initiated by the President of Russia, and he acts as a consultant for the Board of Directors.

Forest District Manager of the Gidle region, **Jan Wiśniewski**, of the Polish Ministry of Forestry, was rewarded for his work in the development of forestry and mechanised harvesting in Poland. Jan Wiśniewski has also been actively involved in the development of the training of harvesting based on the cut-to-length method. Jan Wiśniewski has also been rewarded for his accomplishments in the development of the forestry sector in his home country. Wiśniewski is an active holder of various governmental and local forestry positions.

**Tarmo Luoma**, Managing Director, **Pentti Parviainen**, Training Director, and **Arto Mutikainen** of TTS (Work Efficiency Institute), were rewarded for organising forest machine training in Rajamäki. Luoma, Parviainen and Mutikainen have understood the need for operators in the market and been quick to react by organising the necessary training.

**Ari Salmela**, Training Director of forestry school Jämsänkosken metsäoppilaitos, was rewarded for his work as a developer of forest machine training.

**Reijo Pekkala** of the company Liikkuva Koneenkorjaus Pekkala was rewarded for outstanding professionalism and high-quality customer service. Pekkala is a maintenance service professional with long and versatile experience. He has always worked tenaciously and for the benefit of the customer.

### **Forty-seven forest machine operators were rewarded**

Forty-seven forest machine operators were rewarded with a grant worth EUR 1,000 each. The total value of the awards is EUR 47,000. The Board of Directors of the Foundation asked for proposals for the awards from forestry companies and from Metsähallitus.

The Board of Directors has also decided to distribute 42 grants, a total value of EUR 28,000, to forestry students.

Vieremä 7 May 2008

The Einari Vidgrén Foundation

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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Photos from the Foundation's award distribution event and the award recipients at <http://www.ponsse.com/EV2008>

*The founder of Ponsse Oyj, Einari Vidgrén, teollisuusneuvos (Finnish honorary title), established the foundation bearing his name in 2005. The purpose of the Foundation is to increase appreciation for the work done in the wood harvesting business and to make the field more interesting as an employer, especially among the young. In order to fulfil these values, the Foundation supports and promotes scientific research and product development, the development of working methods and studies related to wood harvesting. The awards are also granted to projects that aim to make entrepreneurship in the field better known. The Foundation distributed the first awards in June 2006.*